(c) and (d) Four laning of Amritsar-Pathankot has been approved under NHDPIII which also includes widening of structures. As per DPR submitted by Consultant, provision for construction of Dina Nagar bypass has been made. Therefore, there is no proposal at present to widen any structure in Dina Nagar.

Condition of Highway Nos. 55, 31 and 31A

†1955. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deteriorating condition of Highway Nos. 55, 31 and 31A;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to improve these Highways;

(c) whether Government are considering to provide a package to save these Highways which is the only lifeline of Darjeeling and North East; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) National Highways Nos. 55, 31 and 31A are kept in traffic worthy conditions for smooth running of the traffic under different development and maintenance programmes undertaken from time to time depending upon availability of fund and inter se priority.

(c) and (d) Four/Six laning of National Highway No. 31 from Purnea in Bihar to Siliguri in West Bengal and Bijni in Assam to Jalukabari in Assam is in progress as part of East-West Corridor. From Siliguri to Bijni, an alternative alignment passing through Mainaguri, Dhupguri, Falakata, Sonapur and joining the original alignment near Salsalabari on NH-31C in West Bengal is identified as part of East-West Corridor and its DPR is in progress. Four laning of the stretch of NH-31 from Bakhtiarpur to Purnea in Bihar is also identified under NHDP Phase-III. Similarly, improvement of National Highway No. 31A is included in Phase-A of Special Accelerated Road Development Project for North-Eastern Region (SARDP-NE).

Accidents of old supply vessels

1956. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been fatal accidents of supply vessels which are 25 years and above old;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered in such cases;

(d) whether it is a fact that old vessels are being used as supply vessels by ONGC which are highly vulnerable to storms; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.